



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Thursday, October 15, 2009	Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767

“FORMER PASCO, WASHINGTON MAN SENTENCED IN FRAUDULENT \$3.2 MILLION CONSUMER DEBT DISCHARGE PROGRAM”

Over 1,300 victims from at least 19 states

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Jason Paul Christensen, age 35, was sentenced to 109 months of imprisonment for the \$3.2 million he fraudulently obtained from over 1,300 victims across the country through a Ponzi-type scheme he sold to his victims as a debt elimination program. Christensen pled guilty on April 16, 2008 to 8 counts of mail fraud and 8 counts of money laundering relating to the scheme he engaged in over a period of about 3 years through the Internet and a post office box business address in Richland, Washington.

In his plea agreement with the United States, Christensen admitted that between approximately October 15, 2003 and December 31, 2005, he solicited his victims via websites such as “NoMoreDebt.tv” on which he advertised that his company employed a team of federal attorneys who used loopholes in the law to discharge consumer debts, knowing that he employed no such team of attorneys and that no such legal loopholes existed. The Defendant also promised his customers that his company would fully discharge their debts, that his program was 100% successful, and that customers were guaranteed success or would receive their money back. Customers, however, were required to pay Christensen’s companies amounts of at least \$2,500 and as much as \$20,970 in advance. The Defendant obtained the large number of victims by paying off the loans of some of his “clients” with other victims’ money and then recruiting his satisfied “clients” to become his “consultants” to whom commissions were paid for recruiting their family and friends into the program. After paying his “consultants” their commissions to promote the scheme, Christensen pocketed the rest of the proceeds for his personal use. In total, the scheme netted over \$3.2 million from victims seeking debt elimination and located all over the United States, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Wyoming, Kentucky, Idaho, Ohio, South Dakota, Montana, New York, Hawaii, Washington, Nevada,

Georgia, Louisiana, Oregon and Minnesota. Christensen operated his businesses, which were known at various times as: OmniScience Consulting; Contended Services, Inc.; Family Financial Network, Inc.; Controlled Options, Inc.; Inertia International; and The Alliance, Inc., through the Internet and a post office box in Richland, Washington.

In addition to the 109 months of prison, Christensen was ordered to pay restitution to the victims of his scheme in the amount of \$3,238,997.72. Christensen must also pay \$1,600 in court fees and will be under court supervision for 3 years after his release from prison.

United States Attorney, James A. McDevitt said: "In today's tough economic times, fraud is rampant. Consumers should be wary of any program that sounds too good to be true and requires an up-front payment, even if someone they know and trust introduces them to the program. Perpetrators of fraud are aware of the fears of consumers and can tailor their schemes to convince even the most suspicious consumers to part with their money." McDevitt added that: "Fortunately the sentence in Mr. Christensen's \$3.2 million scheme will send the right message to would be fraudsters that whether their scheme is crude or highly sophisticated, as in this case, it will be investigated and the perpetrators will be prosecuted and punished severely."

This investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation. This case was prosecuted by K. Jill Bolton, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

08-CR-6027